

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: SPINOLA VISIT

REF: LISBON 6763

Q'S AND A'S THAT FOLLOW WERE PREPARED FOR USE BY
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SHOULD QUESTION OF SPINOLA'S VISIT
BE RAISED NOON BRIEFING NOVEMBER 18 OR THEREAFTER. POST
MAY WISH TO DRAW ON RESPONSES IN ANSWERING PRESS INQUIRIES
THERE.

Q: GENERAL SPINOLA IS NOW VISITING THE UNITED STATES.
CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING ABOUT THIS AND WHO HE WILL SEE
WHEN HE COMES TO WASHINGTON?

A: WE NOTE THAT GENERAL SPINOLA GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE
YESTERDAY IN WASHINGTON. WE UNDERSTAND HE WILL ALSO
VISIT VARIOUS OTHER CITIES.

THE VISIT IS A PRIVATE ONE. GENERAL SPINOLA IS NOT HERE AT
THE INITIATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE
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HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ARRANGING OR FACILITATING HIS

TRIP. THERE ARE NO PLANS FOR EXECUTIVE BRANCH REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET WITH HIM WHILE HE IS IN WASHINGTON.

I UNDERSTAND HE RECENTLY PAID A SIMILAR VISIT TO PARIS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIS PLANNED ACTIVITIES WHILE HERE OR THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP?

A: AS THIS IS A PRIVATE VISIT QUESTIONS CONCERNING HIS ACTIVITIES OR PURPOSES ARE BEST ADDRESSED TO HIM DIRECTLY.

Q: IS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTING HIM ANY WAY?

A: NO. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL AND RECENTLY ANNOUNCED SPECIFIC MEASURES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO IT.

Q: DO YOU ANTICIPATE ANY ADVERSE REACTION IN PORTUGAL DUE TO HIS VISIT HERE?

A: I DON'T KNOW. THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS. IF SO, IT WOULD BE DUE TO A MISUNDERSTANDING IN PORTUGAL AS TO THE NATURE OF HIS VISIT. GENERAL SPINOLA IS HERE PRIVATELY AND AT HIS OWN INITIATIVE AND NOT THROUGH A USG INVITATION.

Q: WHY ISN'T SOMEONE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH SEEING HIM?

A: WE WANT TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE VISIT.

Q: WOULDN'T HIS VIEWS ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL BE USEFUL?

A: WE ARE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL CLOSELY AND ARE SATISFIED WITH OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION THERE. MOREOVER, GENERAL SPINOLA HAS BEEN LIVING IN EXILE SINCE MARCH OF THIS YEAR.

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Q: YOU SEEM TO BE PUTTING DISTANCE BETWEEN THE GENERAL AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. WHY DID YOU PERMIT HIM TO VISIT HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?

A: THERE ARE NO GROUNDS FOR NOT PERMITTING GENERAL SPINOLA TO VISIT HERE IF HE WISHES TO DO SO. HE WISHED TO MAKE A PRIVATE VISIT HERE AND HE IS NOT EXCLUDABLE UNDER THE LAW. INGERSOLL

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